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CLAIMS

I claim the following:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)

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15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously presented) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system capable of communicating voice/sound, data and/or visual image signals selectively either with a local base station within a cellular phone network or with a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network; the system comprising a cordless phone which may communicate with one or more mobile transponder units having the same cellular network phone number, only one transponder unit being active at a given time; all signals are communicated via the active mobile transponder unit, communication with a local-loop being enabled when the active mobile transponder unit is physically connected to the latter either via a docking station within a suitable base station or via a direct cable link when the active mobile transponder unit contains a suitable fixed network interface.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)

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26. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system capable of communicating voice/sound, data and/or visual image signals selectively either with a local base station within a cellular phone network or with a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network; the system comprising a cordless phone which may communicate with one or more mobile transponder units having the same cellular network phone number, only one transponder unit being active at a given time; all signals are communicated via the active mobile transponder unit, communication with a local-loop being enabled when the active mobile transponder unit is physically connected to the latter either via a docking station within a suitable base station or via a direct cable link when the active mobile transponder unit contains a suitable fixed network interface;
and
the active mobile transponder unit incorporates means to automatically detect whether it is physically connected to a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network and, if so, outgoing calls may be routed via the local-loop; when the active mobile transponder unit detects it is connected to a fixed telephone network, it may automatically advise the Cellular Network Control Centre to divert any incoming calls made to the cellular phone number of the mobile transponder unit via the fixed network telephone number of the local-loop connection, the base station automatically providing a signal to the mobile transponder unit advising the fixed network telephone number of the local-loop.
27. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system according to Claim 26, wherein the active mobile transponder unit can detect whether its is physically connected to a local-loop connection by sensing the fixed telephone network system voltage.
28. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system capable of communicating voice/sound, data and/or visual image signals selectively either with a local base station within a cellular phone network or with a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network; the system comprising a cordless phone which may communicate with one or more mobile transponder units having the same cellular network phone number, only one transponder unit being active at a given time; all signals are communicated via the active mobile transponder unit, communication with a local-loop being enabled when the active mobile transponder unit is physically connected to the latter either via a docking station

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within a suitable base station or via a direct cable link when the active mobile transponder unit contains a suitable fixed network interface;

and

at least one base station incorporates means to automatically detect whether the active mobile transponder unit has been inserted; during periods when a mobile transponder unit has not been inserted into the base station or if the inserted transponder unit is not active, the base station may automatically divert any incoming calls made to the fixed network number of the connected local-loop via the cellular network phone number of the mobile transponder unit, the transponder unit automatically providing a signal to the base station advising the cellular network phone number of the mobile transponder unit when the latter has been inserted into the base station.

29. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system according to Claims 26 or 28 having multiple mobile transponder units, wherein to avoid communication via more than one transponder unit at the same time, radio communication between the cordless phone and each of the mobile transponder units is user selectable.
30. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system capable of communicating voice/sound, data and/or visual image signals selectively either with a local base station within a cellular phone network or with a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network; the system comprising a cordless phone which may communicate with one or more mobile transponder units having the same cellular network phone number, only one transponder unit being active at a given time; all signals are communicated via the active mobile transponder unit, communication with a local-loop being enabled when the active mobile transponder unit is physically connected to the latter either via a docking station within a suitable base station or via a direct cable link when the active mobile transponder unit contains a suitable fixed network interface;
- and
- at least one base station incorporates means for simultaneously re-charging a mobile transponder unit and a cordless phone.

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31. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system capable of communicating at least one of voice/sound, data and visual image signals with a local base station within a cellular phone network and with a local-loop connection within a fixed telephone network; the system essentially comprises a cordless phone and a dedicated mobile transponder unit, both of which are compact portable devices; the cordless phone can selectively communicate via the mobile transponder unit with one of the cellular phone network and the fixed telephone network; it being necessary for the mobile transponder unit to be physically connected to the fixed telephone network when the system communicates with the latter but, when the system communicates with the cellular phone network, all communication is via radio links.
32. (New) A multi-purpose mobile cordless phone system according to Claim 31, wherein the mobile transponder unit is physically connected to the fixed telephone network via a docking station within a suitable base station, the docking station incorporating a microswitch in order to automatically detect whether the mobile transponder unit has been inserted, the detection circuit associated with the microswitch having a time delay so that it does not respond to short period tampering with the microswitch.